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Senate

The Senate met at 12:45 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable CLAIRE MCCASKILL, a Senator from the State of Missouri.

PRAYER

Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, who has given us this good land for our heritage, help us to be a people mindful of Your favor and glad to do Your will. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion, from pride and arrogance and from every evil way.

Lord, defend our liberties and fashion us into one united people. Empower our Senators with the spirit of wisdom that justice and peace may reign. May they serve You with such faithfulness that America will show forth Your praise among the nations of the Earth. In times of prosperity, fill their hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble give them a robust faith in You. May they keep their attention on You as the only one they must please.

We pray in the Redeemer's Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable CLAIRE MCCASKILL led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, April 17, 2008.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable CLAIRE MCCASKILL, a Senator from the State of Missouri, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mrs. MCCASKILL thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF THE FARM SECURITY AND RURAL INVESTMENT ACT OF 2002

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 5813.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will state the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5813) to amend Public Law 110-196 to provide for a temporary extension of programs authorized by the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 beyond April 18, 2008.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read the third time and passed; that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; that there be no intervening action or debate; and that any statements relating to this matter be printed in the RECORD.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 5813) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

Mr. REID. Madam President, this farm bill has been extended for a short period of time. The conferees have worked extremely hard. I hope we can get the conference report to us early next week. It would be a real disappointment if we didn't get this bill done.

WELCOMING POPE BENEDICT XVI TO THE UNITED STATES

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that we now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 519.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 519) welcoming Pope Benedict XVI to the United States and recognizing the unique insights his moral and spiritual reflections bring to the world stage.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 519) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 519

Whereas Pope Benedict XVI will travel to the United States for his first pastoral visit as Pope and will visit Washington, DC, and New York;

Whereas Pope Benedict XVI was elected as the 265th Bishop of Rome on April 19, 2005, succeeding the much beloved Pope John Paul II;

Whereas the visit of Pope Benedict XVI will mark the 9th visit of a pope to the United States, recognizing the historical importance of the Catholic Church in American

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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